

## LONGBENTON URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

ANNUAL REPORT  
of the  
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH,  
WILLIAM CUNNINGHAM,  
for the year ending 31st December 1943.

## OFFICERS OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT.

OFFICE.	OFFICER.	QUALIFICATIONS.
Medical Officer of Health.	William Cunningham.	M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.
Deputy M.O.H.	Theodore Craig.	M.B., Ch.B.
Chief Sanitary Inspector.	William H. Lockey.	M.R.San.I., M.S.I.A., Cert.S.I.B., Mat & Food Inspector's Cert., Sanitary Science Cert., A.R.San.I., M.S.I.A., Cert.S.I.B.
Additional Sanitary Inspector. (serving in Royal Navy.)	Frederick Spender.	
Temporary Sanitary Inspector.	William S. Trice.	A.R.San.I., M.S.I.A., Cert.S.I.B., Mat & Food Inspector's Cert.

To the Chairman & Members of the  
LONGBENTON URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Mr. Chairman, Lady & Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit my report for the year 1943. In accordance with instructions from the Minister of Health this report, and the report of the Senior Sanitary Inspector, are abridged, but, fuller records of all the various activities of the Public Health Department, are permanently retained for reference.

## VITAL STATISTICS.

There is a slight reduction in the population of the area. The Birth Rate shows a considerable increase on the figures for 1942, there being 65 extra births during the year. The Death Rate also shows slight increase there being 250 deaths as against 233 for 1942. The principal causes of death were:-

Heart Disease.	67	Cerebral Haemorrhage	26
Cancer of all kinds.	37	Bronchitis	26

## INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Diphtheria. A welcome reduction in number of cases notified occurred, namely 30 in 1943 as against 101 in 1942.

Deaths from Diphtheria. One, a child aged 12 years, immunised, admitted to hospital in a moribund condition.

Immunisation. During the year, 397 children of school age were immunised against Diphtheria, giving a percentage of 87.4% of school children immunised. Our figures received from the Northumberland County Council give a percentage of 77.5% children of pre-school age protected. Bi-annual drives for the immunisation of school children are now a regular feature of our campaign. Local practitioners still have the advantage of immunising their private patients at the cost of this Authority. Our propaganda methods still proceed but I still find that our most valuable method of persuading parents is the personal contact between parents, the

local practitioners, the Sanitary Inspectors, Health Visitors and school authorities. It is becoming increasingly evident that immunisation against diphtheria is a most invaluable protection of child life.

Scarlet Fever. An increase of 79 cases as against 33 in 1942 is noted. No deaths occurred from this disease.

Measles. In common with the rest of the country an increase, 271 cases as against 112, were notified.

Scabies.

Through the School Medical Officer, Health Visitors and Local Practitioners cases of scabies were notified. The Scabies Clinic at the Cleansing Station, is staffed by members of the First Aid Posts, the costs for materials and equipment being borne by this Council. Since the opening of the Clinic in October until the end of the year 149 cases were treated.

Milk. The standard of milk both for cleanliness and bacteriological content has been maintained in a fairly satisfactory level. Milk produced within our area has shown as 66% satisfactory standard whilst outside our area the milk produced and exposed for sale in the area shows only a 54% satisfactory standard. Pasteurised milk sent into the area has not shown a good standard and I am sure that transport difficulties from farms to depots has been responsible in a large measure.

Tuberculosis in Milk.

37 samples of milk were examined for the presence of bacillus tuberculosis. In only one sample was there a positive result. This is highly satisfactory. One cow was slaughtered as a result of our investigations.

Nutrition.

I have no evidence of any malnutrition in any class of the community as a result of war conditions.

I have to thank the Chairman & Members of the Council for their sympathetic consideration at all times and Mr. Lockey, the Chief Sanitary Inspector, and all the staff for their unfailing loyalty and energetic work. Despite extra tasks imposed by the War the routine work of the Department has not been allowed to suffer.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient servant,

W. Cunningham.

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

STATISTICS OF SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Area (in acres)..... 6,843

Number of inhabited houses (end of 1943) according to

Rate Book..... 6,566

Rateable Value..... £114,152.

Sum represented by a Penny Rate..... 452-10-3.

SOCIAL CONDITIONS.

The Chief Industry is coal mining, with the exception of the residential area of Benton and Forest Hall.

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS OF THE YEAR,

	<u>Male.</u>	<u>Female.</u>	<u>Total.</u>
Live Births - Legitimate.....	207	167	374
Illegitimate.....	13	6	19
Total Live Births.....	220	173	393

Still Births - Legitimate.....	4	4	8
Illegitimate.....	—	—	—
Total Still Births.....	4	4	8

Birth Rate per 1,000 population.....	18.38
Still Births per 1,000 Live & Still Births.....	20.53
Deaths.....	121

Death Rate.

The Death Rate per 1,000 of the estimated population. 11.22

<u>Deaths from Puerperal Causes.</u>	<u>Deaths,</u>	<u>Rate per 1,000 total (Live &amp; Still Births).</u>
Puerperal Sepsis.....	nil	0.00
Other Maternal Causes.....	nil	0.00
Total	nil	0.00

<u>Deaths of Infants.</u>	<u>Male.</u>	<u>Female.</u>	<u>Total.</u>
Legitimate.....	13	10	23
Illegitimate.....	1	—	1
Total	14	10	24

Death Rate per 1,000 Live Births of Infants under 1 year of age.

All infants per 1,000 Live Births.....	61.06
Legitimate Infants per 1,000 legitimate births.....	58.52
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate Live Births.....	52.63
Deaths from Cancer (all ages).....	37
" " Measles (all ages).....	1
" " Whooping Cough (all ages).....	1
" " Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age).....	1

	ANNUAL DEATH RATE PER 1,000 POPULATION.										
	Rate per 1,000 Population										Rate per 1,000 Live Births

CAUSES OF DEATH IN LONGBWIION AREA 1943.

	<u>CAUSES OF DEATH.</u>	MALE.	FEMALE.
All Causes.....		121	129
1. Typhoid & Para.Typhoid.....	-	-	-
2. Cerebro Spinal Fever.....	-	-	-
3. Scarlet Fever.....	-	-	-
4. Whooping Cough.....	1	-	-
5. Diphtheria.....	-	1	-
6. Tuberculosis of Respiratory System.....	8	3	-
7. Other forms of Tuberculosis.....	-	2	-
8. Syphilitic Diseases.....	-	-	-
9. Influenza.....	2	3	-
10. Measles.....	1	-	-
11. Acute polio-mielitis & polio-oncephalitis.....	-	1	-
12. Acute Inf. encephalitis.....	-	-	-
13. Cancer of B.Cav. & Oesoph. (M) Uterus (F).....	1	3	-
14. Cancer of stomach & duodenum.....	2	2	-
15. Cancer of breast.....	-	3	-
16. Cancer of all other sites.....	13	13	-
17. Diabetes.....	-	1	-
18. Intra-cranial vascular lesions.....	12	14	-
19. Heart Disease.....	28	39	-
20. Other diseases of the circulatory system.....	2	2	-
21. Bronchitis.....	12	14	-
22. Pneumonia.....	5	5	-
23. Other respiratory diseases.....	2	2	-
24. Ulcer of stomach or duodenum.....	2	-	-
25. Diarrhoea under 2 years.....	1	-	-
26. Appendicitis.....	-	-	-
27. Other digestive diseases.....	-	2	-
28. Nephritis.....	5	-	-
29. Puerperal & post-abort.sepsis.....	-	-	-
30. Other maternal causes.....	-	-	-
31. Premature Birth.....	1	2	-
32. Con. Mal. Birth inj.infant dis.....	1	2	-
33. Suicide.....	-	-	-
34. Road traffic accident.....	2	-	-
35. Other violent causes.....	7	1	-
36. All other causes.....	13	14	-

There is no evidence of any unusual or excessive mortality during the year.

I have no evidence, statistical or otherwise, that condition of occupation, environment or unemployment have exercised any significant influence on the health or physique of children or adults.

SECTION B.

1. (i) Public Health Officials: see page 1.
- (ii)a. Laboratory facilities remain the same as in former years.
- b. Ambulance Service is the same as last year and is still under the direct supervision of the Public Health Department.
- c. Nursing in the home is controlled by the Northumberland County Council.
- d. The only treatment centre controlled by this Authority is the Sun-ray Clinic, which continues to do good work.
- e. There are no hospitals in the area with the exception of the Infectious Diseases Hospital, Scaffold Hill, administered by the Earsdon Joint Hospital Board, of which Board this Council is a Constituent Member.

Maternity & Child Welfare Service.

This service is controlled by the County Council.

SECTION C.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE DISTRICT.

1. Water Supply.
  - (i) See Chief Sanitary Inspector's Report.
  - (ii) Drainage & Sewage. Conditions remain the same.
2. Rivers & Streams.
  - (i) See Chief Sanitary Inspector's Report.
3. Closet Accommodation.
  - (i) See Chief Sanitary Inspector's Report.
  - (ii) Public Cleansing - See Chief Sanitary Inspector's Report.
  - (iii) Sanitary Inspection of the Area - See Chief Sanitary Inspector's Report.
  - (iv) Shops and Offices. - See Chief Sanitary Inspector's Report.
  - (v) Camping sites - No applications have been made for camping sites during 1943, and no camping sites exist in the area.
  - (vi) Smoke abatement - No official action has been necessary.
  - (vii) Swimming Baths and Pools - There are no swimming baths or pools in the area.
  - (viii) Eradication of the Bed Bug - No formal action has been necessary. All cases brought to the notice of the Department have been dealt with without having to report to the Council.
4. SCHOOLS.

The schools in the area are each provided with a sufficient suitable water supply from the mains supply. Periodical inspections are made to all schools.

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SECTION D.

HOUSING. Omitted.

SECTION E.

INSPECTION & SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

- a. Milk Supply. See Chief Sanitary Inspector's Report.
- b. Meat & Other Foods. See Chief Sanitary Inspector's Report.
- c. Adulteration. This service is administered by the County Council.
- d. Chemical and Bacteriological Examination of Food. Milk is the only food of which samples are taken for Bacteriological Examination by this Authority. These samples are examined in the County Laboratory, Newburn.
- e. Nutrition. No special educative effort was made in the nature of lectures, films etc.
- f. Shellfish. - Molluscum - There are no shellfish beds or layings in this area. Shellfish is rarely sold in this area.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Prevalence of, and control over, Infectious and other diseases.

The following table gives the numbers and the age-groups of the cases of Infectious Diseases notified during the year:-

	at all ages	Under 1 year	NUMBER OF CASES.												Hos- pit al	Deaths	
			Age Group.														
			1 to 2 years	2 to 5 years	5 to 10 years	4 to 15 years	10 to 20 years	15 to 35 years	20 to 35 years	35 to 45 years	45 to 65 years	65 over	to 8 years				
Measles.	271	12	41	32	43	67	72	2	2	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	
Scarlet Fever.	79	-	3	6	10	10	32	10	1	6	1	-	-	-	70	-	
Whooping Cough.	40	4	15	2	7	8	6	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Diphtheria.	30	-	1	2	1	3	7	6	4	6	-	-	-	-	30	1	
Erysipelas.	9	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	2	4	-	-	2	-	
Pneumonia.	14	-	1	1	-	1	-	3	-	5	1	-	2	-	10		
Cerebro-Spinal Fever.	2	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	
Puer. Pyrexia.	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Ophthalmia Neon.	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
	450	18	59	13	61	83	126	21	8	21	4	4	2	104	1		

PREVENTION OF BLINDNESS.

There was one case of Ophthalmia Neonatorum.

TUBERCULOSIS.

No action was necessary under the Public Health (Tuberculosis Regulations) 1925, with regard to persons employed in the milk trade, nor in the compulsory removal to hospital of persons suffering from Tuberculosis.

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TUBERCULOSIS 1943.

Age Groups.	CASES NOTIFIED.				DEATHS.			
	PULMONARY		NON-PULMONARY		PULMONARY		NON-PULMONARY	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Under 1 year.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1 - 5	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
5 - 15	2	-	2	-	1	-	-	-
15 - 25	4	9	-	2	2	2	-	-
25 - 35	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
35 - 45	1	1	-	-	2	-	-	-
45 - 55	2	-	-	-	2	-	-	-
55 - 65	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
65 & over.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	10	11	2	3	7	2	-	-

The notification of cases of Tuberculosis in the area is apparently satisfactory, and no action has been necessary in any case of neglect or refusal to notify.

PARTICULARS OF TUBERCULOSIS REGISTER  
at 31st, December 1943.

	PULMCNARY.			NON-PULMONARY.			TOTAL PULMONARY & NON-PULMONARY.	
	MALE	FEMALE	TOTAL	MALE	FEMALE	TOTAL	TOTAL.	
Cases on Register Jan.1st.1943.	74	61	135	29	22	51		186
New Cases.	10	11	21	2	3	5		26
Cases Removed.	7	2	9	-	-	-		9
Cases trans. from Non-Pul. to Pul.	1	-	1	1	-	1		-
On Register 31.12.43.	78	70	148	30	25	55		203

LONGBENION URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE SANITARY INSPECTOR

WILLIAM N. LOCKEY.

for the year ended 31st December 1943.

Dear Dr. Cunningham,

I beg to submit my report upon the Sanitary Department for the year 1943.

HOUSING. As in previous war years, owing to the shortage of building materials and building trade labour, we have only been able to have absolutely essential repairs carried out. In extreme cases it has been necessary to resort to formal action. There are still 295 houses occupied in areas confirmed for clearance prior to the outbreak of hostilities and, after nearly five years, their condition is getting gradually worse although attempts are made to maintain them at least in a weather tight condition. In one Clearance Area, (Knight's Buildings, Dudley), from which re-housing took place just after the commencement of hostilities, six of the houses were repaired and made habitable for the purpose of housing persons rendered homeless by enemy action. The need, for the original purpose did not arise, therefore, it was decided to use them for the housing of persons inadequately housed, of which there are a considerable number in this district. I am still seriously concerned with regard to some of the houses in Front Street and Railway Row, Annitsford, Clearance Areas which were confirmed in 1937, and are now so structurally unsound as to be dangerous. The Committee gave careful consideration to this matter and decided that the families from certain houses must receive priority as, and when, any Council houses became available. The movement from Council houses has been so slight however, that the scheme has been of little value.

COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL OF HOUSE REFUSE. Difficulties caused by the general labour problem in having vehicles maintained in running order have, to some extent, prevented the department from giving the service desired. The whole of the district is cleansed not less than once per week, and, in the mining parts, an attempt is made to collect twice, but, during heavy periods this has to be reduced to every 5 or 6 days. My opinion is that we must aim at a service which will give bi-weekly collections in these parts, otherwise the bins overflow. This is not only unsatisfactory from a point of view of keeping the area clean but also has a snowball effect of holding up collection when picking up from off the yards. At the end of the year we had three motor vehicles and three horses and carts and, following the report to the Committee, it was decided to augment the equipment by the purchase of another motor vehicle and reduce the horse transport. It is necessary to retain some horse transport for a period owing to there still being a number of ash closets in the area.

DISPOSAL. Our large controlled tip at the Richard Pit Quarry was completely filled and levelled during the year. The owner of the quarry was very satisfied with the work which has now resulted in a very dangerous quarry being made into suitable agricultural land. We are still tipping on the other three controlled tips, one the raising of low land due to mine subsidence and the others in the Burradon and Earlington Quarries. The refuse from the houses which still have ash closets is being tipped upon a farm site to be used by the farmer as manure.

TRADE REFUSE. As in former war years, trade refuse is still being removed free of charge.

SALVAGE. Our motor vehicles are all fitted with a trailer and the collection of salvage takes place at the same time as the collection of house refuse. A special collection is made for kitchen waste from some 150 communal bins which are distributed throughout the area.

The collection of kitchen waste is far below the average standard throughout the country but there are a large number of pigkeepers in the district whose herds are small enough to allow collection of kitchen waste without a license and those pigkeepers all have regular schemes of collection within easy reach of their own homes. This is a potential reduction in our figures. Our totals for materials collected show a decrease of some £471 as compared with 1942.

I beg to append below statistics relating to the scavenging services for the year ended 31st March 1944. The figures are based upon the estimated population made in 1943.

HOUSE REFUSE ONLY:-

Estimated quantity removed.....	14,531 Tons.
Approximate average weight per house.....	2.21 Tons.
Average quantity per house.....	6.00 Cub.Yds.
Average per 1,000 population per day (365 days).....	37.37 Cwts.

Total cost of Collection.....	£5,578
Cost of Disposal.....	447
Payment to men when sick.....	159
Part wages of men in H.M.Forces.....	36

Total Scavenging Costs..... 6,220

Less payment for scavenging of army camps.....	£ 188
" profit on Salvage.....	600
	788
	£5,432

	s. d.
Cost per house.....	16- 6.5
Cost per head population... .	5- 0.9
Cost on rates in the C.....	12.0

SALVAGE. Total material sold..... £967  
Costs other than with  
normal scavenging..... 337  
  
£600

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA. It was possible to have all but a small number of the nuisances found remedied by informal action. It was, however, necessary to report upon the following to the Public Health Committee for Statutory action:-

W.C's without water supply.	9
Insufficient water supplies.	8
Defective W.C's.	2
Insufficient refuse storage accommodation.	3

The whole of the records of the work done, both informally and formally, are kept in order to follow up but these records are not being produced.

Shops & Offices. Regular inspections were made of all premises in the area. Any contraventions found were immediately dealt with and remedied without formal action. The wartime practice of shuttering windows has somewhat mitigated against good lighting of many premises and artificial lighting has had to be resorted to in many cases. The fuel economy campaign had effect upon the heating but no very bad cases were found.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE DISTRICT.

Water Supply. There have been no alterations of note during the year the whole of the area being supplied by the Newcastle & Gateshead Water Co., there has always been a sufficiency and sampling has shown the supply to be of very high quality. In the Northern part of the area the Council are the Water Authority, obtaining bulk supply from the mains of the aforementioned company. In the rest of the area the Newcastle & Gateshead Water Co., is the Water Authority. Some 1,028 houses, or 15.6%, are still supplied by stand pipes in the street, of those houses, 290 are in areas confirmed for clearance prior to the outbreak of hostilities and from which re-housing has not yet taken place. The remainder are mostly of such low standard that we anticipate their being treated as Clearance Areas under the Housing Acts, as soon as the housing situation develops in favour of such a course. The proportion of the population, supplied from those stand pipes, will be slightly above the proportion of houses.

Rivers & Streams. Statutory Notices were served on the owners of land adjoining a water course to abate a nuisance caused by the damming of the stream and water locking of land in the close vicinity to dwelling houses. The stream was cleaned out by mechanical means and the water course lowered some 5 to 6 feet. A considerable improvement of the area has resulted therefrom.

Closet Accommodation. There are still some 190 houses in the area with ash closets, all but 30 are in connection with the houses in areas which were confirmed for clearance prior to the outbreak of hostilities and from which re-housing has not yet taken place.

MEAT & FOOD INSPECTION.

Public Health (Meat) Regulations 1924. As in previous war years, slaughtering has taken place in the Government Controlled Slaughterhouses in Newcastle and meat allocated to this district. The Receiving Depot and shops are under regular supervision, the local Butcher's Pool and the department work harmoniously together. A large number of cottager's pigs (75) were slaughtered for bacon during the year, in each instance the animals were inspected after slaughter and, where any disease was found, the cottagers were willing to have the effected material destroyed.

UNSOND FOOD SURRENDERED.

Beef (Home Killed)	6½ stonos.	Bacon	12-lbs.
Mutton (Imported.)	2 " "	Cheese	164-lbs.
Pork.	15½ "	Onions.	31 stonos.
Fruit.	100-lbs.	Fish Cakes.	2 dozens.
Canned Goods.	429 tins.	Flour.	5 stonos.
Turnips.	32 stonos.	Carrots.	40 "

MILK & DAIRIES ORDER 1936.

The following is a summary of the particulars of the Milk and Dairies Register at the 31st December, 1943.

Number of persons registered as cow-keepers.	19
Number of premises registered as cow-sheds.	23
Number of cows kept on registered premises (Approximately)	431
Number of cow-keepers retailing milk.	17
Number of persons registered as Dairymen in the area.	19
Number of Dairymen outside the area retailing in the area.	9
Number of premises registered as Dairies.	19
Number of persons registered as Retail Purveyors.	48

MILK SPECIAL DESIGNATION ORDER, 1936.

The following are particulars of licences granted under the above order:-

Premises licensed for storage and sale of T.T.Milk.

Premises licensed for storage and sale of Pasteurised Milk.

Supplementary licenses to retail T.T.milk.

Supplementary licenses to retail pasteurised milk.

Supplementary licenses to retail accredited milk.

Accredited Producers.

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BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATION OF MILK. Samples of milk from each supply were submitted to the County Laboratory for Bacteriological Examination and Biological Test.

MILK PRODUCED IN THE LONGBEATH AREA.

EXAMINATION	Satisfactory.	Unsatisfactory.	Total.	Satis. %
Methylene Blue Test.	26	13	38	65.7

MILK PRODUCED OUTSIDE THE LONGBEATH AREA.

EXAMINATION	Satisfactory.	Unsatisfactory.	Total.	Satis. %
Methylene Blue Test.	6	5	11	54.5

GRADED MILK.

EXAMINATION.	Satisfactory.	Unsatisfactory.	Total.	Satis. %
Pasteurised.				
Total Bacterial Count.	3	7	10	30.

TOTAL NUMBER OF SAMPLES TAKEN.

EXAMINATION.	Satisfactory.	Unsatisfactory.	Total.	Satis. %
Total Bacterial Count.	3	7	10	30.
Methylene Blue Test.	31	18	49	63.2

BIOLOGICAL TEST.

Thirty two samples produced inside the area and five produced outside were submitted for Biological Test. One of the former was certified as "B.Tuberculosis, Present".

Yours faithfully,

W.N.Lockey,

SANITARY INSPECTOR.